

## Vote on Strike Of All Builders Set for To-day

Trades' Executive Council  
to Meet Following Refusal  
to Raise Carpenters' Pay

Masters Blame Workers

Truce of Three Unions to  
End at Noon; Employers  
Say Demands Not Justified

The peace conference between the carpenters and the master builders ended abruptly yesterday afternoon when the employers' association refused to consider an advance of \$1 a day to \$6.50 for carpenters in New York City. In consequence, representatives of the union were last night planning to call a strike of all of the building trades unions against all jobs on which members of the Building Trades Employers' Association hold contracts.

In the strike, in which a truce was declared to last until noon to-morrow, in order to allow yesterday's conference, only three trades—carpenters, joiners and bricklayers—are involved. These will be at work until noon to-morrow, when, as at present planned, the other trades will strike with them.

The question of a general strike will be taken up to-day by the executive council of the building trades department of the American Federation of Labor. This body has no power to order a general strike, but it may recommend it, and in the past its recommendations have had the full effect of law.

**Pur Blame On Hutcheson**  
Following the breaking off of the conference, Ronald Taylor, president of the Building Trades Employers' Association, in a formal statement placed the responsibility for the failure of the conference upon William L. Hutcheson, secretary of the union, who had demanded that the men be given \$6.50 a day.

On his part Mr. Hutcheson declared the employers had been guilty of bad faith, but insisted that this would not interfere with the union agreement to keep the peace until noon to-morrow. When we agreed to call the strike off and send the men back to work, he said, "We had reasons for believing that the employers would concede the \$6.50 rate. Otherwise the strike would never have been declared, nor a truce arranged. However, we have said the men would stay at work until noon to-morrow, and they will. At noon the strike will be on again."

"We met the employers more than half way. When we got together they asked what we proposed doing with the men who worked during the strike. We told them that we would protect those men, that we would take into the union any competent mechanics there might be among them. Then they asked where we stood on wages. I said the men wanted \$6.50 a day. They said they had decided not to pay it."

**Cites Wages Elsewhere**  
"Is that flat?" I asked. They said it was and we quit right there. "In discussing the wage rate I cited cities such as Chicago, where the men get \$6 cents an hour, one and a quarter cents an hour less than we are asking here, and pointed out that difference in the cost of living more than justified this, said that in the other cities we had been doing business with weak sisters."

"I am not going to predict what will happen, that is not my practice, but I would like to get into the record a note of the fact that we have kept and are keeping faith. That is more than can be said of the bosses. Snellings here can tell what they did with the men."

"Snellings" who is Milton Snellings, international president of the building engineers, said one large firm in the association had failed to keep its part of the agreement.

**Points to War Record**  
"There are two firms on the army base job—the Taylor Construction Company and Post & McCord. The Taylor people kept the agreement like gentlemen and allowed our men to go to work as per agreement. Post & McCord refused. Taylor's men refused to work under such circumstances. I have ordered them all to report for work to-day under penalty of suspension from the union. Whether or not Post & McCord will let them remain to be seen."

"During the war when men in our line could get \$80 to \$85 a week we fulfilled our agreement to supply the New York builders with men at \$33 a week. We had a contract and we kept it. In every other city where we had contracts the employers voluntarily increased the rates. Here they insisted on getting their full pound of flesh."

According to a well-known builder the position of the employers' association is that they "don't have to pay the rate."

"There are," said this man, "many thousands of idle carpenters. Many thousands more will be idle as soon as the shipyards begin to close down in earnest. The law of supply and demand is working in our favor, and there is no reason why we should not avail ourselves of its benefits."

**300 Baptist Ministers  
Lack Means of Support**

**Dr. Haggard Makes Estimate;  
Announces Allotments in  
\$6,000,000 Drive**

Three hundred aged or sick Baptist ministers in the Northern Baptist Convention are beyond aid by their church because of limited funds, Dr. Fred P. Haggard, director of the national committee of Northern Baptist Laymen, declared last night in announcing state allotments for the \$6,000,000 Victory campaign.

"The treatment of its ministry is the outstanding shame of the Protestant church," said Dr. Haggard.

"Baptists must acknowledge their full share of this humiliation. But we need not continue the disgrace any longer than we elect. If this drive succeeds nearly \$1,000,000 will be added to the funds of the Ministers and Missionaries Benefit Board."

"There are 755 Baptist preachers in the Northern Baptist convention who are unable, by reason of age or sickness or the preference of churches for younger men, to perform the duties of the ministry, and who have no adequate means of support. At the present time only 455 of the 755 in need can be assisted because of the lack of funds."

"The fear of poverty is keeping many a red-blooded young man out of the ministry. The Baptist denomination plans to look after its 10,000 clergymen better than ever before. That is one reason for the Victory Campaign in which we are now engaged. We expect to raise \$2,500,000 through the churches, and \$3,500,000 should be realized through individual gifts."

New York State's quota of the \$6,000,000 drive is \$840,000. New Jersey's \$169,816, and Connecticut's \$24,088.

**Woman's Bravery in  
Holdup Lauded by Judge**

"You Silly Boys," She Said as  
Pair Aimed Gun at Her; Re-  
fused to Give Up Jewels

When Mrs. Claire Crohan, of 230 Riverside Drive, had testified yesterday in the West Side Police Court against two youths charged with attempted robbery, Magistrate Corrigan told her she was braver than any man he knew and suggested she offer her services to the police. She was on her way home from a Red Cross meeting Friday night, she said, when two men levelled revolvers at her at Ninety-first Street and Riverside Drive and demanded her money and jewelry.

"Why, you silly boys," Mrs. Crohan said she exclaimed. "Do you think I'm so foolish as to do that?"

"I guess you'll have to," one of the men said, nudging her with his revolver, she said, and when she still refused, slapped her face. Then both took to their heels, she continued, while she pursued them, crying "Police! Police!"

Weren't you afraid," asked Magistrate Corrigan, "when you saw those revolvers pointed at you?"

"Why, no," said Mrs. Crohan, "not in the least. Those men never shoot."

"But what would you have done if they had?" the magistrate persisted.

"Then they would have shot, that's all," said Mrs. Crohan.

Owens and Cutler were held for the grand jury.

**Transport Peerless Safe  
Home With 158 Soldiers**

Eleven officers and 147 men, 124 of whom were sick or wounded, arrived on the transport Peerless yesterday. The vessel docked at Pier 8, Bush Terminal, Brooklyn.

Local men among the ship's complement included Lieutenant W. S. Wilson, 1089 Park Place, Brooklyn; Lieutenant C. P. Young, 111 Broadway, and Lieutenant W. C. Burrucker, 1582 Broadway.

**Movie Actor Divorced**

MOUNT VERNON, N. Y., Feb. 13.—Supreme Court Justice Albert M. F. Seeger at White Plains to-day signed an interlocutory decree of divorce in favor of Mrs. Adele Freed von Dewitz from H. Wolf von Dewitz, a movie actor, known as the "Baron." It is said he hails from Copenhagen. Mrs. von Dewitz is also in the movies. The couple have a two-year-old son and his custody is given to the plaintiff.

## City Club Asks For a Bureau To Fix Wages

Reconstruction Programme  
Suggests Commission to  
Enforce Living Salary

Insurance Changes Urged

Wants Workers Protected  
Against "Four Great  
Hazards of Industry"

Urging good pay, housing, education and security against the uncertainties of modern industrial life for wage earners, the City Club will soon publish its reconstruction programme. One of the measures urged as part of its programme is a commission to fix a living wage for women and children in this state, payment of wages lower than those fixed to be made illegal.

The first of the club's proposals is the enactment of insurance laws to safeguard the workman from the "four great hazards which continually beset their lives, namely, accident, sickness, old age disability and involuntary unemployment."

"In all the leading countries of the world," the report continues, "including our own, the device of social insurance for meeting this need has been tried, and where tried has been universally approved. The time is now ripe in this city and state for the further development and extension of the social insurance device for the greater security and conservation of our wage earners."

**Changes in Compensation Law**  
The programme then advocates three changes in the New York workmen's compensation law. One of these would raise the minimum and maximum weekly compensation from \$5 and \$15 to \$8 and \$18, respectively. The second would reduce from fourteen days to seven the period before an injured workman is entitled to benefits. And the third would increase the relative importance of the workmen's compensation insurance fund.

The other social insurance measures advocated by the City Club include old age retirement allowances, health insurance and unemployment insurance. Of unemployment dangers, the programme says:

"There is danger that the closing of war contracts and the demobilization of the military forces may lead to widespread unemployment and suffering unless immediate steps are taken to increase the amount of work available. Any severe crisis of unemployment might also lead to social unrest of a most unfortunate character."

**Wants Public Project Started**  
"The City Club recommends that as an aid in preventing any such depression, the state and city of New York take immediate steps to begin as many as possible of the numerous projects of public work postponed on account of the war."

With respect to providing adequate housing for working people of the state, Governor Smith is urged to appoint a sub-committee on housing in his Reconstruction Commission, with a view possibly to state creation or financing of proper houses.

The state's present system of taxation is called "inadequate and discriminatory in that it does not sufficiently reach sources of revenue other than real estate."

Abolition of the present personal property tax is recommended and the substitution for it of a state income tax to reach the incomes of residents of the state from all sources and of non-residents from sources within the state. This tax, it is recommended, should be extended to corporations.

**Suggests State Wage Board**  
On the subject of minimum wage legislation, the club says:

"It is estimated that there are over 1,000,000 women workers in New York, the great majority of whom are under thirty years of age. The working conditions of these women are of peculiar concern of the state. They are not, to the same extent as men, in a position to protect themselves through organization."

"The City Club recommends that a bureau be established in the Industrial Commission to have charge of the fixing of living wages for women and children. This bureau should be empowered to investigate wage conditions and to appoint representative wage boards composed of representatives of the public and equal numbers of employers and employees in the various low-paid trades. Based on the recommendations of the wage boards and the investigations of the bureau, the commission should have power to fix minimum wages for different occupations sufficient to cover the necessary cost of living. Payment of a normal woman worker at lower rates than such a minimum should then become illegal."

Other recommendations of the City Club are for colonization, erection of additional schools, raising of salaries of school teachers, development of the port of New York and admission of women to share in the management of industry.

**Marine Police Reserves  
Seek More Enlistments**

Major P. H. Dillingham issued an invitation yesterday to all Americans between the ages of twenty-one and thirty-five to join the marine division of the police reserves.

The organization, formed before the United States entered the war to serve in time of disorder, lost a great portion of its membership through the draft. There are no dues. The only requirement is an oath to uphold the Constitution of the United States. Uniform and equipment are to be supplied free.

There are three companies in the marine division. The members when on duty are under military discipline and receive training in infantry and light artillery drill as follows: First company, one hour a week at noon; second company, two hours a week, 8 to 10 p. m.; third company, one hour and a half a week, 7 to 9:30 p. m. There are also four hours of night duty on police patrol boats.

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## Shipping Board Cuts Rate On Cargoes to the Orient

Minor Changes Made for Trans-  
atlantic Trade; Some In-  
creases Noted

WASHINGTON, Feb. 13.—Ocean freight rates for general cargo moving from Pacific coast ports to Japan and China were fixed at \$12 a short ton by the Shipping Board to-day, effective March 1. This makes a reduction since January 1 from \$56 a short ton. New rates to Vladivostok were announced as \$25 a short ton.

Minor corrections in shipping Board rates previously published for Transatlantic trade with Europe and the United Kingdom were announced by the board, making general cargo rates to English ports from American South Atlantic ports \$10.75 a hundred pounds and increasing for other destinations to a maximum of \$1.93 a hundred pounds for cargo to Barcelona, Spain. To Holland and Belgium the rate is \$1.33 a hundred pounds and to Genoa and Naples, Italy, \$1.65 a hundred pounds.

From American gulf ports to United Kingdom ports rates are fixed at \$1.15 a hundred pounds, increasing for continental European destinations to \$2 a hundred pounds for Barcelona.

**Wages Depend on  
Production Rate,  
Report Declares**

**Increased Efficiency Only  
Way to Catch Up With  
Cost of Living, Says Indus-  
trial Conference Board**

BOSTON, Feb. 13.—A sharp, though possibly short, period of unemployment is predicted in a report issued to-day by the National Industrial Conference Board, on "Problems of Industrial Readjustment in the United States."

One of the most immediate problems of readjustment, according to the report, is that presented by the prevailing scale of wages. It is pointed out that so long as wages remain at the current level a downward revision of living costs is exceedingly difficult. An increase in the efficiency of individual production to such a degree that employers will be warranted in paying relatively high wages is regarded as the most promising solution of the present wage problem.

"This," says the report, "seems to be the only means of escaping the vicious circle by which the cost of living is used as a reason for demanding higher wages, which, in turn, are important factors in high prices of goods, resulting in still another rise in the cost of commodities consumed by the worker."

**Some Recommendations Made**  
Among the recommendations made in the report are:

The necessity of a careful analysis of the relation of hours of work to efficiency of production and to the health and social needs of workers.

The advisability of establishing an industrial court, or some other form of tribunal, for the settlement of labor controversies, to succeed the National Labor Board.

The retention of women workers in new fields of employment, and the necessity of amending immigration laws, on the one hand to attract a large number of workers from abroad, or, on the other hand, to provide still more restrictions against immigration of an undesirable sort.

The development of a market for foreign government securities, which the report holds must largely be accepted in payment for goods sold to nations whose resources have been heavily drained by the war.

**Problem of Unemployment**  
Speaking of the unemployment problem, the report says: "Although the demobilization of the military forces increases approximately 1,800,000 is likely to extend over such a period of time as not to seriously complicate the immediate situation, the rapid demobilization of the 1,200,000 men who were in military camps at the signing of the armistice and the necessity of providing work for a still larger number of civilian war workers throws a heavy strain on industry, especially in view of the high scale of wages. This is likely to be felt most seriously in the iron, steel, textile and other major branches of industry employing common labor on a large scale."

While the immediate employment outlook is confused, the report notes that some observers maintain the opinion that in the not far distant future there may be a shortage of labor rather than a lack of work.

**More Work Than Workers**

So far as agriculture is concerned it is pointed out that the problem seems to be to find a sufficient number of workers rather than to provide employment. The shortage is accentuated by a disposition on the part of some returning soldiers formerly engaged in agriculture to seek work in the cities.

A hopeful note is sounded in the report when it comes to a discussion of the outlook for foreign trade. History indicates, it says, that despite the strong feeling engendered by the war, workers engaged in it who have keenly awake to the importance of foreign trade will resume commercial relations without any period of interruption.

**Baker Says Rate Agreed to  
By Compers Will Prevail**

WASHINGTON, Feb. 13.—Commenting on the threatened strike of carpenters at New York, Secretary Baker said to-day that the situation at the Brooklyn army supply base was normal, that a full force of men was at work and that many applicants were being turned away from the local employment office. Preference in employment is being given to discharged soldiers.

"Carpenters are being paid \$5.50 per day," said Mr. Baker. "This is the prevailing union rate which the War Department is required to pay under agreement between the Secretary of War and Mr. Gompers. The War Department will continue to carry out the Baker-Gompers agreement, and to pay the prevailing rate on all construction work."

## Aldermen Approve Eight-Hour Shifts For City's Firemen

Chief Kenlon Asserts Three-  
Platoon System Is Essen-  
tial to Department; Lead-  
ers Speak for State Bill

The three-platoon system for firemen yesterday received the unanimous approval of the Aldermanic Committee on State Legislation, before which a public hearing was held in the Aldermanic Chamber at the City Hall. The room was packed with men in blue and citizens interested in the measure now before the State Legislature.

While the bill before the state bodies does not directly refer to New York City, it is devised to "promote the health and efficiency of firemen" in the first, second and third class cities of the commonwealth. It provides for an eight-hour day; one day off in seven and the dismissal on complaint of any private citizen of any Fire Commissioner throughout the state who fails to comply with the law if enacted.

Although the measure or a similar one has been up for placement on the statute books at various times during the past years, the situation in the Fire Departments of this and other cities had not been so critical as to practically compel the enactment of the law. In the past year especially a growing discontent "and even mutiny among our men" has been noted by Chief John Kenlon.

**Work 24 Hours a Day Now**  
At present a fireman is compelled to work twenty-four hours every day, with one day off in ten. Occasionally he has a chance to go to his home for a bite to eat or a short visit, but these occasions are few and far between. This was made one of the many arguments presented yesterday in favor of the eight-hour measure.

When the three-platoon system bill was originally introduced into the State Legislature opposition to it was based on its tending to detract from, rather than add to, the efficiency of the firemen. It was pointed out that with the present system any number of firemen could be called to duty in an emergency; or, rather, would be on hand at large conflagrations.

On this score it was pointed out that with the three-platoon system in effect there would be but one-third of the usual number of men at a conflagration. The question was also raised as to what would happen, on the three-platoon basis, if during a fire, the term of duty of one gang of men expired and the new gang came on.

**Adverse Arguments Discarded**  
These arguments were thrown into the discard by almost all the advocates of the three-platoon measure at yesterday's hearing. A fireman explained the system as follows:

"We will suppose that the hour for starting work in the morning is 8 o'clock. The next shift would come on at 4 in the afternoon."

"At about 10 o'clock an alarm might be sounded. When the first company to arrive at the scene of the fire sees that there is a likelihood of its growing, a second, third, fourth or possibly fifth alarm is turned in. At 12 o'clock the relieving shift comes on. What happens?"

"The new shift runs" to the fire, but the old shift does not leave. Instead, the men who have been working stand by as a sort of auxiliary, while the fresher men assume the duties of fighting the blaze. If the fire rages until the time for the third shift to come on the same practice will ensue."

**Provides for Emergencies**  
The proposed legislation provides for just such an emergency. It stipulates that "no one of such platoons or any member thereof shall be assigned to more than one tour of duty. Such tour of duty shall not exceed eight hours of each consecutive twenty-four hours, excepting that in the event of conflagrations, riots or other similar changing tours of duty, many of said platoons or the members thereof may be continued on duty for such hours as necessary."

**Reduced for Clearance—  
Men's Fine Silk Cravats**  
Formerly \$1.50 and \$2.50  
Now \$1.10

All in perfect condition, but reduced because the assortments are incomplete. Tailored in the very finest neckwear silks.

**Saks & Company**  
Broadway at 34th Street

**Flapper!**  
It's the age of ups and downs. Skirts down, hair up; heels sometimes up and sometimes down; head up with the pride of her age, eyes down with the demureness of her youth—and attention keyed up to the subject of clothes!

**How She Does Love Them!**  
She is just becoming conscious of the charm, the becomingness, the flattery of clothes. She is just beginning to understand the secret of expressing one's personality through the cut, the design, the color, the harmony of one's attire. It is all perfectly fascinating. She should be encouraged and shown how to use both taste and discrimination.

**Our Sections For Misses**  
SPECIALIZE IN AP-PAREL that crosses the span between girlhood and "misshood," as well as satisfying the dress requirements of the full-fledged miss.

**The Russian Note Predominates**  
IN A TRICOTINE SUIT that is youthful from collar to hem. The coat is bloused at the back, but hangs free in front, where it is crossed by a twisted silk braid girdle. It is fastened at the left side, while at the right side two little pockets follow parallel curves. The skirt is narrow—but not too narrow for walking. \$74.75

**As Wide As It Is Long—**  
A NAVY SERGE WRAP derives its smartness from its width as well as from its length—which is short. The material merely tapers into armholes, falling in the most graceful fashion when the arms are lowered. There is a large collar which narrows into cross straps, fastening in back, at the waistline. \$39.75

**Checked Taffeta**  
IS THE SMART FABRIC of which a dear frock is made—a new and charming feature is the little apron front with a turned-up cuff that is held in place by quaint bows and buckles. The blouse is straight, draped a bit and swathed toward the back, where it ends in a huge sash bow. Pleated organdie collar and cuffs, edged with the taffeta, give a final touch of demureness. \$27.75

**Walking Is a Pleasure**  
in a low-heel sport oxford of tan calfskin fashioned on a mannish last with perforated wing tip and blind eye-lets. \$7.49

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## To Discuss State Tax on Confections Here To-day

Travis and Committee Will  
Meet Candy and Soda Water  
Manufacturers

The committee on taxation and re-  
trenchment of the New York State Re-  
construction Commission will meet this  
morning in the Hall of Records, when  
State Controller Travis will discuss

with representatives of the principal  
candy and soda water manufacturers  
of the state a system of taxation of  
their products.

This afternoon the educational committee will discuss the application of the military training law at a meeting in the Board of Education rooms, Fifty-ninth Street and Park Avenue. Colonel Hunt, of the general staff of the War Education Committee, will speak. The industrial development committee was to have had a luncheon yesterday at the Lawyers' Club, but it has been indefinitely postponed.

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